# Education, Social Networks and Academic Libraries in Nigeria

**Okede, Godbless W[1], Obi, Hilda Eno[2], David- West, Boma T[3]**

[1]Medical Librarian, Medical Library, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
[2]Subject Librarian, Engineering, Library Department, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
[3]Subject Librarian, Agriculture, Library Department, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

**\*Corresponding Author:**
Okede, Godbless W
Email: okbless21@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** Today, the learning culture in Nigerian academic libraries is in decline. A number of factors like the social networks and increase in information technology are responsible for this decline. This paper examines the impact of social networks on learning in an academic environment in meeting the statutory requirement of intellectual disciplines. Recently, some library users' have stated the usefulness of social networks for academic purposes. This is in comparison to the services provided by an academic library. In order to know to what extent this usefulness has been, this study was carried out. The population of the study consisted of 456 students who are in years 1-4 of the Economic Department in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Port Harcourt. Forty six (46) questionnaires was the instrument used to collect data representing 10 percent of our study group. The instrument was used to test the relationship between education and social networks in rendering information services in academic libraries .The results show a strong correlation between academic libraries and social networks at 0.99712. This means that social networks contribute equally as other material resources available in the academic library for learning and research.
**Keywords:** information technology, academic libraries

## INTRODUCTION

Education is a powerful instrument and the bed rock of intellectual foundation in every society. Nations develop when education is given adequate consideration. Libraries play a major role in education. They provide information services for support of formal and informal education and for other information needs of communities. Education gives knowledge about all aspects of human life. Education is seen as a formalized and institutionalized instruction to people within a society which enables them acquire relevant skills that prepares them not only to be useful to themselves but to contribute to the development of the society. Societies develop every day. The advent of information technology which is fast affecting societies in form of electronic operations and services has influenced peoples' behavior and understanding to an amazing direction. This has led to efficient information flow, availability of facilities for teleconferencing, improved banking services and even affects education. Effective and efficient utilization of the services provided by these electronic technologies enhance the quality of lives of individuals and boost educational tools at the disposal of scholars. Many electronic devices are harnessed to effect maximum academic performance amongst students. There are internet and social networks like the face book, twitter, LinkedIn, my space, you tube, social.com and others. This paper therefore examines the influence of libraries and social networks on maximum academic performance amongst students in tertiary institutions.

## LITERATURE
## EDUCATION

Education is an indispensable instrument for effecting national development in all developmental strategies of any given society [1]. Education according to Okpaga [2] "is a process of acculturation through which the individual is helped to attain the development of his potentialities and their maximum activation when necessary and to achieve their perfect self-fulfillment". Chauhen (1987) in Okpaga [2], see education as the shaping of behavior of individuals for adjustment in the society. Education can not only be derived from the regular classroom teaching, researching and retrieval of information through information resources available in the libraries, but can also be gotten from the use of the information available on the internet. Corner [3], sees the internet as composed of many interconnected computers, enabling people to share information and processing power. Educational opportunities in many societies ensure the rights of individuals for continuing

education and also participating in the socio-economic and political transformation of societies. Involvement of social network in formal education could be considered adequate for this purpose. To affirm this position, educational reformists have stated that education to the young is but an introduction to life, which needs learning on a continuous basis for new knowledge and development in a changing society. Learning is looked upon as a lifelong process. Research on teaching and learning principles has focused attention in the classroom[4]. Ajayalemi[5] also reported that research on animal behavior has been transferred to human in the learning situation. A well planned and systematic observation therefore becomes useful evaluation instrument for studying students' behavior and classroom interaction[6]). Teaching is said to have taken place if the teacher has the intention of influencing the behavior of his student and has accordingly aided them with learning materials[6]. Psychologists tend to see learning as a change in human behavior which may be permanent or transient[7].

A learning event is also a self motivating factor. An adults' willingness to participate in learning is anchored on such factors as perception of the values of learning. On the whole, successful adult education programs must be judged on the basis of effective participation and learning.

## SOCIAL NETWORKS

Some students patronize the social networks because the libraries are seen as a pool of stocked books, and do not promote and provide for effective education and learning. Otite and Ogionwo [8] see social networks as social structures which regulate how member relate to one another. In the field of education, the social network is very useful for research purposes and online courses for retrieving materials. It provides electronic learning (e-learning). E-learning according to Nwosu [9] provides the avenue and multimedia for fostering effective learning. lnyiame [10], further confirmed that social networks provides multimedia that enable learners (students) learn and grasp much more easily even when the subjects are considered difficult.

However, the use of social networks in academic communities is experiencing changes as on-line services are piercing deeply into the educational sector. Students are finding it easier to search for information from the internet than the conventional libraries[11]. In other words, it is more comfortable for a researcher to sit down conveniently to download information from the internet than to go from one library shelf to another carrying volume of books. According to Asadu[12] social networks or media is interactive, as messages can be sent and feedback received immediately. It is public and is accessible to everyone. It neither belongs nor is controlled by any

person or group of persons. It is mainly internet based and it is community driven. Community in this sense means a group. Members of this group are usually bound by common belief or desire to solve a problem that affects all. Social media has broken monopoly of information by a few persons. Initially, people go searching for information and knowledge in the library. Now, the Internet is helping to control information overload. As it is now, information is carried or transferred with lightening speed. New information gets across the whole world through internet at a rate that is incredible.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Libraries as social institutions conserve knowledge, preserve the cultural heritage, provide information, undergird and underpin education and research; and serve as fountains of recreation, Aguolu[13]. Pollard [14] while supporting this, opines that libraries are able to bridge educational, economic and social divides that challenges academic communities. Since libraries are veritable mediators between men and vast medium of information resources, their objective is to maximize the social utility of these records. Jesse [15]. They are repositories of information that provide the vital underpinning for socio-economic, political and cultural development.

Information constitutes the raw material from which options or alternatives emerge. They are in forms of published or unpublished, print or non-print, written or oral fields of knowledge. Newer media in this electronic age has created a totally different environment for information dissemination.

Hard and soft copies of information storage materials are preserved in the libraries. The progress of any country is impossible without creative and imaginative utilization of accumulated information. Today, one of the criteria for categorizing a country as "underdeveloped" or "developed" is the extent to which its information systems are developed at various levels. This will enable the country achieve its socio-economic and political objectives.

Investment in Virtual Library allows local researchers and their institutions to share research output among themselves and also within the global community, Ochai [16]. Gbaje and Okafor [17] on their own have observed a great disparity between theory and practice of librarianship. This is because access to online resources by users has improved. The regular use of Blog and Wiki technologies has shown these disparities. Spencer [18] on his own stated that "no matter how much experience a librarian has, how many degrees he acquired, how well know, there is always something new to learn. If you do nothing to improve your skills, you will become obsolate". However, Ifidon

[19] has also observed that these online resources are not adequate.

## METHODOLOGY

The survey method was used in this research. The research focuses on the measurement of strength on the relationship between the information services rendered and used in the academic library and social networks. The statistical tool employed in the analysis is the correlation, Microsoft, excel 2007 package was used in the analysis.

The targeted population was 456 students in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Economics in the University of Port Harcourt were we employed the stratified random sampling. The sample of the study was 46 students which represents 10% of the entire population selected, using the simple random sampling technique. The equation for the correlation coefficient is correl $(X_1 y) =$

$$\frac{\sum \left( x - \bar{x} \right)\left( y - \bar{y} \right)}{\sqrt{\sum \left( x - \bar{x} \right)^2 \sum \left( y - \bar{y} \right)^2}}$$

## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In our result, X represents information services for the use of academic library, while Y represents social networks.

|  | X | Y |
|---|---|---|
| Very regularly | 43 | 127 |
| Regularly | 87 | 205 |
| Irregularly | 108 | 185 |
| Not at all | 476 | 697 |

The correlation coefficient of the two data sets above is 0.99712. This shows that there exist a strong, almost perfect correlation between academic library and social network. It was also observed that a greater percentage of our respondents do not make use of either of the two variables.

However, the analysis shows that there was weak correlation between the respondents that make use of the two forms of information retrial at very regularly, regularly, irregularly and not at all as – 0.19053, 0.15356, 0.016256 and 0.01406 respectively.

This means, there is a very strong relationship between information services and social networks. This implies that if the two services are employed in any academic library, the patronage level will be very high. This will in turn appreciate librarianship profession standard, reputation and academic standard.

## CONCLUSION

The library development depends on professional planning, foresight and activities. Some of the principal functions of professional associations have been to clarify the concepts of libraries and librarianship, to ensure that legislation and planning are soundly based, and the right proposals are presented to the right quarters.

Today, evidence have shown that traditional library services are no longer enough in any academic environment without support services for learning, research and recreation. Every user needs both our traditional means and modern innovations in order to achieve academic excellence in all intellectual disciplines.

## REFERENCES
1. Ibeh AE; Theory and Practice of Adult Education in Nigeria, Port Harcourt, University of Port Harcourt Press, 2008; 123-139.
2. Okpaga A, Aboho DA; Education, Politics and National Development in Nigeria: African Journal of Education and Information Management, 2010; 1-3.
3. Comer DE; Internet Microsoft 2008 (DVD). Redmond, W.A: Microsoft Corporation. 2007.
4. Medley DM, Mitzel HE; Measuring Classroom Behaviour by systematic Observation, Handbook of Research on Teaching, 1963.
5. Ajeyalemi DA; Patterns of Cognitive Interaction in Chemistry Classroom: Ph.D Thesis, University of East Anglia. 1981.
6. Akpe CS; Evaluating Teaching Practice, Owerri, Totan Publishers Ltd. 1994.
7. Gagne RM; The Condition of Learning, New take, Holt-Rinclart and Winson. 1997.
8. Otite O, Ogionwo W; An Introduction to Sociological Studies, Ibadan, Heinemann Educational Books. 2006.
9. Nwosu FC; Employing Information Technology for Promotion of Education in Nigeria: Journals of Qualitative Education, 2008; 4(2):144-149.
10. Inyiamg HC; Science and Technology Education in the 3rd Millennium, Abuja Pamray Digital. 2004.
11. Atuluku J; Computer Based Education: A Necessary Food for Religion. Instruction in Nigerian Primary Schools. A conference paper presented at Afaha-Nsit. 2009.

12. Asadu CA; Anatomy of Communication for Development PH, University of Port Harcourt Press, 2002; 95-100.
13. Aguolu CC, Aguolu IE; Libraries and Information Management in Nigeria, Maiduguri, Ed-Inform Services. 2002.
14. Polland B; Libraries: Partners in Sustaining Communities. 2008.
15. Jesse S; Foundations of Education for Librarianship New York, Baber and Hayes, 1972; 197-198.
16. Ochai A; Virtual Libraries as a critical factor in a National Research Education Network. 2006.
17. Gbaje ES, Okafor; An Assessment of Technological Skills Competency of Academic Lips in Nigeria, NLA Conference, Akwa. 2011.
18. Spencer L; Googreads.com. 2012. Retrieved from http://tinyyr1com/7qw53d
19. Ifidon SE; Trends in Library and Information Science in Nigeria, Lagos, Elis Associates. 2012.